

For the LITTLE ONES

LOCKING UP LONDON TOWER

Ancient Custom Still Observed in Big English Metropolis—Makeup of Procession.

Strange to say, very few people are aware of the ancient custom which is still kept up at the Tower of London, says London Tit-Bits. Just before midnight a befeater and the chief yeoman porter secure the keys from the governor's house to "lock up." Having received the keys, they proceed to the guardroom.

"Escort for the keys," calls out the porter and a sergeant and six privates turn out.

The procession then marches off, and the sentries they pass issue the usual challenge of "Who goes there?" to which the answer is "Keys."

Arriving at the entrance of the Tower grounds, the Lions' gate, the porter locks the gates, and the party returns to the guardroom, the sentry challenging as before and receiving the same answer. However, on arrival at the guardroom again the sentry stationed there stamps his foot, at the same time giving the usual challenge.

"Keys," replies the porter.

"Whose keys?" the sentry asks.

"King George's keys."

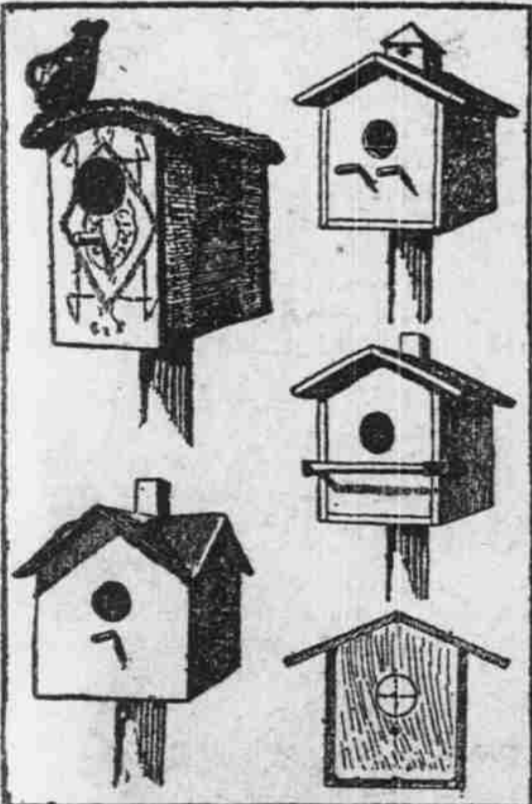
"Advance King George's keys, and all's well."

The porter then says, "God bless King George," and all present respond with "Amen." The keys are then saluted and returned to the governor's house, where they remain until the next night's ceremony.

HOUSES FOR LITTLE BIRDS

Not Necessary to Make Nesting Places Elaborate—Roughest Shelters Generally Sought.

The boy or girl who puts up boxes for the birds to nest in and supplies the birds with drinking water and bathing places, is certain of an unfailing source of pleasure. Much of this will come from watching the birds, at times, and studying their habits. Bird houses needn't be new or elaborate. The



Suggestion for Bird Houses.

roughest shelters, and weather-stained boxes, are more likely to find a tenant early, than those made of new lumber.

Any boy can make one of the houses shown in the illustration, says the Farmers' Mail and Breeze. When the birds move in they will pay rent by eating hundreds of insects which would otherwise do damage.

RIDDLES.

What is the right kind of timber for castles in the air?
A sunbeam.

What is that which never asks any questions and yet requires many answers?
The doorbell.

What is it which if you name it even you break it?
Silence.

What sort of men are always above board in their movements?
Chessmen.

What word of 15 letters is there from which you can subtract 12 and leave ten?
Pretentiousness.

How many weeks belong to the year?
Forty-six; the other six are only lent (Lent).

What is the difference between a goose and an author?
A goose has many quills, but an author can make a goose of himself with one quill.

When may a man be said to as hard up as a man can be?
When he cannot get credit for good intentions.

So Will the Reader.
"Pop, is an abyss anything sleepy?"
"Of course not, child. What put that into your head?"
"Well, it's always yawning."

NOVEL FEAT OF GROCERYMAN

Develops into Expert Calculator in Order to Dispose of Goods in Short Space of Time.

The butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker have to become expert calculators in order to dispense their goods to the waiting customers in the minimum amount of time and to be sure they do not receive the worst of it in multiplying pounds by pennies. Then, too, all sorts of perplexing little problems in weighing and packing have to be disposed of. For example, the case of the grocer who had a big bag containing 20 pounds of granulated sugar, which he wished to put up into packages of two pounds each. The perplexing feature of the incident was that he had only two weights, five and nine pounds, respectively. There he was with his 20 pounds of sugar, his



Neat Trick of Groceryman.

scales, his scoop, and those two weights, and without loss of time he had to fill his ten two pound bags. Could you tell him how to accomplish the feat in the fewest possible number of operations?

The groceryman performed the feat as follows in ten operations, which is the shortest method possible: He placed the nine-pound weight on one side of the scales and the five-pound on the other. Then he was enabled to weigh the difference between them, four pounds in sugar, which left 16 pounds in the large bag. Then he placed the nine pounds and five pounds together on one side of the scales and the 16 pounds of sugar on the other side. Out of the bag he was then able to weigh two pounds, leaving two pounds in the four pound bag. In eight more operations he put the 16 pounds of sugar into two pound bags by using two pounds of sugar as a two pound weight.

PALMISTRY IN THE FAR EAST

Thumb Is Called "The Great Finger" in Japan and China—Servants Use Finger Points.

The Chinese and Japanese call the thumb "the great finger," and connect it with one's ancestors. Our index finger is with them the "head or man pointing finger," and has to do with the father.

The middle or longest finger belongs to the mother, while the next, or nameless finger, is the property of sweethearts and wives (the westerns have chosen this finger, too, for the wearing of the wedding ring). The little finger concerns our descendants and posterity.

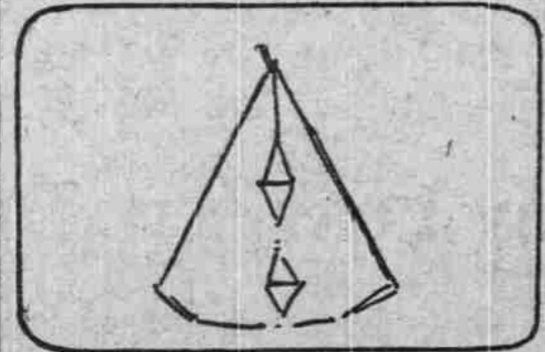
The ball of the thumb, the celebrated "mount of Venus," according to palmists the world over, retains its qualities appertaining to sensuous, sensual, and mundane matters with the Japanese hand readers, too.

Both Japanese and Chinese servants, in signing and sealing agreements with their masters, frequently moisten their finger points with ink and press it on the paper. As a means of identity or personal sign manual, these finger prints appear to have been long known in the east. It is, therefore, no surprise to find that Japanese palmists, in addition to examining the "lines" of the open palm, extend their inquiries to the pore patterns on the tips of the fingers and thumbs.

HINT FOR THE CAMPERS-OUT

Good Circulation of Air Is Assured in Tent by Placing Sort Stick Between Flaps.

When wishing to get up a circulation of air, try this simple plan: After closing the flaps put a stick 15 or 18 inches long horizontally, as seen in the picture, between the flaps. This



Hint for a Tent.

will spread them apart and give an opening, and good ventilation is assured. They may be made large or small, and as many as desired.

Needed a Respite.

Old Gent—Well, sonny, did you take your dog to the "vet" next door to your house, as I suggested?

Boy—Yes, sir.

Old Gent—And what did he say?

Boy—"E said Towser was suffering from nerves, so sis had better give up playing the pianer.—Tit-Bits.

Practical Application.

Small Boy—Say, mother, what is a desert?

Mother—It is a place where nothing grows.

Next day in school the small boy was asked what was a desert.

"Papa's head!" came the immediate reply.—Tit-Bits.

CROSS MADE LIGHT

No Trouble That Is Unbearable Can Come to His Children Who Trust Him.

IS THERE any such thing as unbearable trouble? Carl Hilty says there is: "One can bear all troubles but two—worry and sin." Now, it is well to realize that those two unbearable troubles are unnecessary. Neither worry nor sin has to be continued. Both can be ended by the large draft on the sovereign goodness of God, which he is always ready to honor. As for other troubles, no one of them is unbearable. We are always surprised to see how much we can bear.

Most of us who seek to be wise would not look ahead ten years if we could. It would be impossible to bear the revelation of what will come to us in a decade. That would be putting the load of ten years on us in one day. In God's plan our experiences come to us gradually. Very few troubles come like lightning out of a clear sky. There are always clouds, and before the bolt falls there are flashes enough to prepare us somewhat for the shock. The cross is not laid upon our shoulders full weight at once. Rather, it comes down so slowly that those who must carry it can accommodate themselves to the load. God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, so that it can stand the next wind. A shorn lamb never stays shorn. The vital forces begin at once to prepare it for the cold of the next winter. It is in part this gradualness of God's dealing with us that makes trouble bearable.

There is much help also in settling down quietly to the assurance that we are never to be broken by our troubles. There is no way of escaping them. It is not meant that we should be untroubled in this sense of the word. But it is assured that the wise hand that lets trouble come to us is also a strengthening hand that sustains us in trouble. It will bear saying over and over, that there is no promise to keep us from passing through the waters. The only promise is that they shall not overflow us. We are not told that we shall not pass through the flames, but only that they shall not kindle upon us. When we are told to cast our burden upon the Lord, it is not said that he will take the burden away, but only that he will sustain us. We may go our way bearing the burden, but we shall not fall under it while we count it his burden given to us.

Nothing Ever Unbearable.

There is then no unbearable trouble which cannot be avoided. There are troubles that strain us to the utmost, and that we would say beforehand could not be borne. They do not fall on us unawares, however. If we have not expected them, we have a right to realize that God knew they were coming. God is never taken unawares. If he was the only one who could foresee them, then we have especial right to expect him to brace us to bear them. We could not be ready, therefore he must help us, unready. Most of us remember in driving through the country that a hill always looks steeper from across the valley than it proves when we come to its base and begin the ascent. Most of our troubles look far more serious to us ahead than they prove to be when we come to them. Sometimes we do not come to them at all; our road turns aside before we come to the steep hill. Sometimes we come to them just as we expected, but we always take them inch by inch, and we go our way through them in a strength which proves sufficient.

As our days our strength proves. We do not have strength for a decade today, but by the end of the decade a decade's strength has been doled out to us. There is nothing to fear in the future. There is not water there deep enough to drown us, and no fire hot enough to burn us, and no burden heavy enough to crush us, because as we go into the future, Christ will be by us and bring us safely through. We could not bear the troubles, but he and we can bear them all.

"His Voice Will Be Obedy."

"The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey." Here was a definite decision. Our peril is that we spend our life in wavering and we never decide. We are like a jury which is always hearing evidence and never gives a verdict. We do much thinking, but we never make up our minds. Life has no crisis, no culmination.

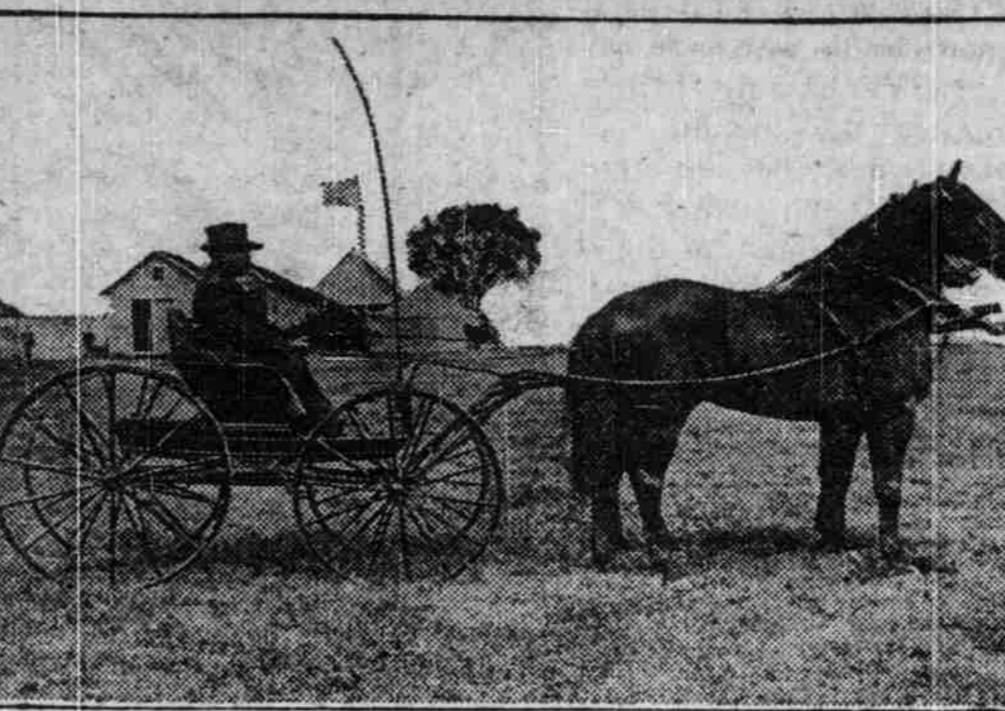
Now people who never decide spend their days in hoping to do so. But this kind of life becomes a vagrancy and not a noble and illumined crusade. We drift through our days, we do not steer, and we never arrive at any rich and stately haven.

It is therefore vitally wise to "make a vow unto the Lord." It is good to pull our loose thinking together and to "gird up the loins of the mind." Let it stand out in his experience as a mountain peak from the plain, and let the act abide in his retrospect as the most momentous choice in his life.—Rev. J. H. Jewett, D.D.

What Forgiveness Means.

We may say of Christ as simply as the Psalmist said of God. Evil shall not dwell with thee. Yet it is said of him of whom it stands written as the very characteristic of his life, "This man receiveth sinners." And that, when we come to the point, is what forgiveness means. It means the receiving of sinners by One who is inexorable to sin.

INCREASED DEMAND FOR HARNESS HORSES



Prize Winning Team at the Albany County Fair.

(By J. M. BELL.)

In spite of the marked increase in use of automobiles all over the country, it is a well-known fact among horse dealers that the right kind of harness horse is scarce and high. The real lovers of horse flesh still evince a lively sentiment regarding their equine friend, and this sentiment exploits itself in a practical way by good prices for the first class light harness horse, or roadster.

Style, speed, conformation and disposition are the firm cardinal requisites of a high-class light, harness horse, every quality above mentioned is a necessary one and in order as mentioned. Without these four accomplishments an animal of the roadster class cannot command the top-notch price on the market, so it is greatly to the advantage of the farmer, who at the same time is a breeder, to remember these requisites. It may be safely said that without style the light harness horse does not elicit admiration, that without speed he cannot "keep pace with the times" that without beauty of appearance or conformation he will not set off handsome trappings and equipment—and lastly that lacking a docile disposition he is practically useless for the purpose for which he is meant.

No animal used by man needs to be so carefully handled and trained as the roadster, for oftentimes he is driven by women and children therefore upon his docility depends the safety of their lives.

In these days of horse terrors—such as motor-cars, bicycles, traction engines and the like, a horse must be thoroughly broken to be sold as safe, or "lady broke." He must be fearless as far as all ordinary objects are concerned, yet he must be imbued with the proper amount of spirit when occasion demands.

As it is a conceded fact among horsemen that the American trotter is the fastest light harness horse in the world, it is natural to suppose

that the farmer who wants to raise light harness horses will choose a trotting bred sire, and a dam in whose veins flows a generous infusion of their trotting or thoroughbred (running blood). This line of breeding should bring desired results in the way of colts which will later on develop into road horses of a high type.

There are some families of trotters remarkable for their beauty of appearance and symmetry of form individuals making stylish single drivers, while many handsome carriage teams are of the standard trotting blood. Then again there are families of thoroughbreds that combine beauty with speed, and also show considerable speed at the trot.

The writer well remembers a race horse, strictly thoroughbred, who in doing his work, under the saddle would trot a mile in 3:05 and he was a good race horse at that. The late Senator Leland Stanford of California raised many great trotters (as all horsemen know) by breeding his great stallion Electioneer to mares that are practically thoroughbred. So it goes, running and trotting blood makes a trotter, and a trotter must necessarily be a good roadster even if he is never put into regular training.

We will suppose that a farmer has a pair of light harness horses that he has raised, breeding, style, conformation, education and speed are up to the standard. This pair will perform well in single and double harness, now if the breeder wants to sell from \$600 to \$800, may be a little more, could be asked and received.

The writer feels assured that the above figures are not extravagant in the least, as the demand for a high type of light harness horse is very good, but horses of this class must come up to the requirements of the trade.

COMFORTABLE HENS ARE THE LAYERS

Anything in Poultry Line Finds Market, but High Prices Paid for Choice Goods.

(By M. K. BOYER.)

Each year the poultryer better understands the care of poultry, knows their wants and has discovered how to keep them comfortable. The comfortable hens are the ones that do the laying.

About thirty years ago when poultry farming was young, as a business, a cry arose that it would not be long before there would be such a surplus of stock that prices would go tumbling, but notwithstanding that there are ten successful plants today to every one thirty years ago and the demand not half reached!

With the increase of supply came the increase of demand and today we are no nearer meeting the demand than we ever were.

However, there is a change in the market which must not be lost sight of. Almost anything in the poultry line sells, but the choicest prices are alone given to the "fancy goods."

The word "fancy" implies more than appearance. It means also quality. Poultry and egg buyers are becoming particular, but they are willing to pay for their goods. If they want the brown eggs they will not take white, and if they prefer the white the brown ones offer no temptation. The market today demands choice, plump, fresh stock. Have you got it? If so, the market is waiting for you.

We have today quite a number of breeds, and all, to a certain extent, are practical. But they will not, any one of them, fill all the purposes, therefore, it is necessary for a man to select only such breeds as will best serve his customers.

Of the entire list of breeds none will meet the demands of Americans so satisfactorily as do the American varieties, and in this class the most popular are the Wyandottes, the Plymouth Rocks, with the Rhode Island Reds closely following. Also our American strains of Light Brahmas and Leghorns.

The Brahmas belong to the Asiatic class as a breed, but the Light Brahma as bred by our people is so different from that bred in England that one would hardly suppose them to be of the same family. This is also true of the Leghorns, which belong to the Mediterranean class.

SELECTING AND PREPARING SOILS

Good Supply of Decomposable Organic Matter Helps Bacterial Action of Plant.

Many people make the fatal mistake of expecting alfalfa to do well on soils that are not fit properly to produce any kind of crop, says Bulletin 36 of the Purdue university (Indiana) station. There is just as much need of care in selecting and preparing soils for alfalfa as for any other crop and probably more, because of its deep rooting habits and large plant food requirements.

Deep, loamy soils with open subsoils are undoubtedly best for alfalfa, but there is plenty of evidence to show that it may be successfully produced on almost any type of soil, from light sandy or gravelly loams and peats or mucks to heavy clays, provided that it is well drained, sweet, and properly supplied with organic matter and available plant food. In 348 trials conducted by the Purdue station in recent years in cooperation with farmers throughout Indiana, 68 out of 83 clays, 167 out of 188 loams, and 69 out of 77 sandy soils gave satisfactory results.

Many soils that at present are not fit for alfalfa culture may be made so by providing drainage facilities, correcting acidity, adding organic matter, or supplying needed plant food, according to the requirements. Good drainage is essential in order that the roots may go deep into the soil. Hardpan must be broken up or avoided altogether. Soils that are sour may be made sweet by thorough drainage and the application of lime.

A good supply of decomposable organic matter in the soil helps the bacterial action in making plant food available, facilitates the inoculating process, and together with a good drainage prevents heaving in the spring. For soils that are out of condition in this respect, a good way to supply organic matter if sufficient manure is not available is to raise and plow under a crop of cowpeas or some green manuring crop before attempting to grow alfalfa.

Peat and muck soils may be used for alfalfa if they are well drained and properly supplied with mineral plant food. Potash is nearly always lacking in these soils and often phosphoric acid and lime must also be supplied. Soils that are subject to flooding are not good for alfalfa.

TEMPERANCE NOTES

(By The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.)

WAR ON LIQUOR WORLD-WIDE

Secretary of State Bryan Tells Union League Club of Chicago of Temperance Work.

"May we not appeal to the young men of this country to abstain from the use of alcohol, that their brains may be clear and their nerves steady for the battles of peace and progress that lie before us?"

These ringing words are part of a speech delivered by Secretary of State William J. Bryan—not before a temperance audience or a young people's society, but before the Union League club of Chicago, a company of hard-headed business men.

"In most of the countries of Europe," Mr. Bryan said, "you will find that the liquor question is the moral question of paramount importance. I was in northern Ireland some two years and a half ago and met the man who recognized what is known as the 'Catch-Me-Pal' Total Abstinence society. It began with a meeting on the street between a minister and five drunken men, and one of them asked the minister to get the other four to sign the pledge. He invited them to come to his house when they were sober and to sign, and they came, and when the five had signed they went out and got five more, each man bringing back his pal, and five more signed, and then the ten went out and got ten more, and they organized this society, which, when I was there, had reached a membership of 120,000 and had changed the lives and habits of whole communities. And a Belfast lady told me a story that was the outgrowth of the work done by this society. She said that many drunkards had been reformed and that a minister, speaking to the wife of one of these reformed men, said: 'Your home life must be more pleasant now, since your husband has quit drinking,' and she said: 'Oh, yes, yes, he is more like a friend now than a husband.' (Laughter.) And such a change can be accomplished and can take place under favorable circumstances.

"France, one of the greatest wine producing countries in the world, has decided to teach in the schools the effect of alcoholism on the system. But the most startling piece of news comes from Germany. Some two years ago the emperor, speaking to the naval cadets at Vevay, dared to attack what he described as the traditional beer-drinking habits of his people. He told these young men that in any contests that might arise the country must depend upon them, and that it could not do so unless their brains were clear and their nerves steady, and then he warned them that alcohol would rob their brains of clearness and their nerves of steadiness, and in the name of the Fatherland he appealed to them to join total abstinence societies, and he held up for their own example the total abstinence societies of the British navy. And when I read this appeal of Germany's emperor to the young men of that country to be strong for war I asked myself: 'May we not appeal to the young men of this country to abstain from the use of alcohol, that their brains may be clear and their nerves steady for the battles of peace and progress that lie before us?'"

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MONEY SPENT FOR LIQUORS

People of United States Paid \$1,845,000,000 for Beer, Wine and Whisky in One Year.

According to the report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for 1912, the money spent by the people of the country for beer and whisky made in the United States was \$1,645,000,000. About \$200,000,000 more was paid for imported beers and whiskies and for wine, home-made and imported. This sum, \$1,845,000,000, would carry to successful completion four great enterprises like the Panama canal. It would buy one-fifth of the produce of all the farms of the United States, the estimated value of which, for 1912, is \$9,032,000,000. It would buy the entire 1912 corn crop of the country, the biggest in our history (estimated by Secretary Wilson as \$1,753,000,000), and leave \$100,000,000 to the good.

These are facts the American citizen would do well to ponder.

Liquor Business.

A few years ago there were in the United States 250,000 saloons. Now there are 150,000.

Thirty-one breweries were put out of business in the United States in 1912, and 14,000 saloons sent to the scrap heap.—American Issue.

Deaths by Drink.

The whole country was touched by the loss of human life in the flooded districts of Ohio, a loss which probably does not aggregate 1,000 men, women and children, and yet, according to Edward Bunnell Phelps, editor of the American Underwriter, every year in the United States 66,000 persons die directly from intoxicating liquors, 2 per cent., or 13,200 of them, being women, while the direct money loss to the country would make the loss in the Ohio flood look insignificant.